

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1X 1. [REDACTED] Otto Nuschke received seventeen junior barristers (Referendare), all members of the SED, who had just finished the six months' course at the Verwaltungs Akademie in Forst Zinna. On this occasion, Nuschke urged his audience to cooperate fully with the SED when they begin their new careers in the DDR government. Referring to the current attacks by certain DDR officials on the activities of the church in east Germany, Nuschke pointed out that religious freedom was guaranteed by the DDR constitution. When one of his listeners objected that Otto Grotewohl's recent speech attacking the church could leave little doubt that the church was to be liquidated in the course of time, Nuschke lamely explained that this speech had been made on the occasion of the SED Party Convention, and could not be considered to be a statement of policy by Grotewohl, the Prime Minister. When queried about the prevalence of arbitrary arrests of persons living in the DDR, Nuschke replied that the Ministry of State Security was only a German facade for a purely Russian executive organ, and that the SED has no influence on this ministry. He added that such arbitrary arrests are consonant with normal Russian practice, and are justified by the threat to the DDR posed by the Anglo-American aggressors.

2. The Czechoslovak government officially informed the DDR on 19 July 1950 that Jan Scheinmann, then Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, was removed from office on 11 May. No explanation was given. It is said that this removal has been kept quiet in Czechoslovakia.

3. The Rumanian Diplomatic Mission to the DDR has informed the DDR that as of July 1950 192,000 members of the Rumanian Workers Party (Communist) had been expelled since the party was founded. The note added that this figure represents 20% of the total membership.

At the end of July 1950, the DDR acknowledged a Russian note according to which the U.S.S.R. required that all railway trolley cars (marked with the letters T/USSR) be turned over to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Rumania, via the U.S.S.R.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. Hans Paul Ganter-Gilmans, State-Secretary in the DDR Ministry for Foreign Trade, departed with a trade delegation for Peking ca. 29 July 1950.
6. Mr. W. G. Burchett of Australia has been refused a visa by the DDR to enter East Germany recently. Burchett made the application in Budapest. Two of his books have been published in German by the communist-licensed publishing house Volk und Wissen. The books are Sunrise in Asia and Cold War in Germany. It is understood that the DDR felt that Burchett was not politically reliable and hence refused the visa.
7. Georg Dertinger, the DLR Foreign Minister, spent the first week of his vacation in the sanatorium of the Soviet Council of Ministers, near Moscow. He then went to a resort on the Black Sea. He is to return to Moscow on 12 August 1950 for talks, and to return to Germany as scheduled on 15 August. On 17 August the CLU shop group is composed of only thirteen persons, a small group compared with the 120-member SED shop group. The LDF has only one man in the Ministry, and all the remaining 75 employees are non-party (mostly consisting of the cleaning and labor staff).
8. Minister Luitpold Steidle has been spending his vacation in Bavaria. He will return to his post early in August.
9. Anton Ackermann, State-Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, finally obtained his divorce from the well-known communist functionary Elli Schmidt.
10. The FDGB has collected contributions from all employees of the Foreign Ministry, amounting to an average of 4 marks, but varying with the individual's salary. This money was collected for aid to the North Koreans.

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